IX. An Account of a BOOK.

The Natural Hiſtory of the Chalybeat and Purging Waters of England, *with their particular Eſſays and Uſes*, &c. *with Obſervations on the* Bath *Waters in* Somerſetſhire. *By* Benj. Allen, *Med. Bac. Printed for* S. Smith *and* B. Walford, *at the* Prince's Arms *in St.* Paul's *Church-yard.* 1699.

THIS Treatiſe conſiſts of an Account of the Original and Principles of the Chalybeat and Purging Waters of *England*, the Eſſays of the Particular Waters, and a Regiſter of the Virtues and Properties of them. This the Author Recommends as a Work never yet done; from the Neceſſity of knowing the Qualities and Properties, of any Subject, and nicely ſtating the Caſes they are proper in, but eſpecially of this Subject of ſo general Uſe and extraordinary Virtue; and urgeth the Diſcovery of ſo great variety in the Waters and their Salts, as amount to eſſential Differences among thoſe reputed of the ſame ſpecies, and which are uſed promiſcuouſly, this he proves to anſwer Obſervation; and to the neglect of which Proprieties, he proves the want of Succeſs to be much owing, as well as to the ignorance of their proper Place, and full extent of their Virtues. In the Chalybeats he diſcovers chiefly Four

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ſorts ; The Light, the Heavy Acid that takes only a Red with Gall, and does not retain it ; the Atramentous, that retain conſiderably the Colour, and thoſe that have ſo great a ſhare of the Salt of the Earth, as hindred their retaining the Colour they take with Gall, to all which he Aſſigns diſtinct Virtues. Particularly, the Light Waters he appropriates to Obſtructions of the more remote and finer Paſſages of the Glands, *&c.* and the Heavy Acid to the Aſtringing and ſtopping Fluxes of Blood ; in the Virtues of the laſt the Author conſiders the Apoplexy diſtinctly, which he makes to proceed from a Vice of the Glandular Ducts, and not from any Obſtruction in the Blood-Veſſels ; evincing, *as he thinks*, that no Obſtruction of them, or of the Brain, nor compreſſion of the Brain can effect it ; and corrects the Notion of the continued Courſe of the Animal Spirits, to be the continuer or our Machin ; but the ſpring of the Brain correſpondent to and kept up by the Air, which he makes the uſe of Reſpiration, and which he argues to be deſtroyed in this Diſeaſe, by admiſſion of Air with the Blood which breaks in, and that this Diſtemper is Cured by theſe Waters on that ſcore ; what concurs to the Production of this Diſeaſe (which is to be regarded) whence it becomes ſo frequent ; this he makes to be cold received into the *Cortex Cerebri*, and affecting the *Succus Nutritius*, and mortifies it ; that it is ſo, the Hiſtory he gives of the Diſeaſes of the Seaſons, he thinks, ſufficiently evince : Firſt from a general Courſe of the Diſeaſes of the laſt Years, in which he proves the Cauſe to be the ſame ; and then chiefly, that upon the removing of the Matter from the Brain, it appears in rheumatick flatulent Tumors in the part where it ſettles, and which readily return to produce another fit : in all which he approves Dr. *Coles* uſe of the Glandular Secretion, and

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the Cauſe, which he aſſigns to be Cold ; only more nearly explains the reaſon and nature of it, the matter of which this Author ſuppoſeth to be more minute, than the common groſs parts that affect us, and that the Great Froſt did by no means introduce it, but helped to increaſe and urge it ; and this complication of Cauſes he conſiders in the Cure.

The *Purging Waters* he detects the Principles of, which hath been the Work of our greateſt Men, and fruitleſs hitherto. And in the Eſſays of the Waters, obſerves ſo great variety of the Salts of them, and in the Nature of the Waters, in proportion to their differences : The Author in ſhort, examines them, and offers their Eſſays to view ; beſides ſome of the Waters which he thus proves to be the ſame with the fam'd ones of *Scarborow* and *Knaresborow* ; he offers ſome not known, and ſome not uſed at leaſt before, which regards Diſeaſes not Cured by the others.

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